

PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION MEMORANDUM



INCREASED LOGISTICS ACTIVITY
MU GIA PASS AREA
ROUTE 15
NORTH VIETNAM

NPIC/R-109-69
DECEMBER 1969

Declass Review by NIMA/DOD

GROUP 1: EXCLUDED FROM
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INCREASED LOGISTICS ACTIVITY
MU GIA PASS AREA
ROUTE 15,
NORTH VIETNAM

DECEMBER 1969

NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER

CONFIDENTIAL

NPIC/R-109/69

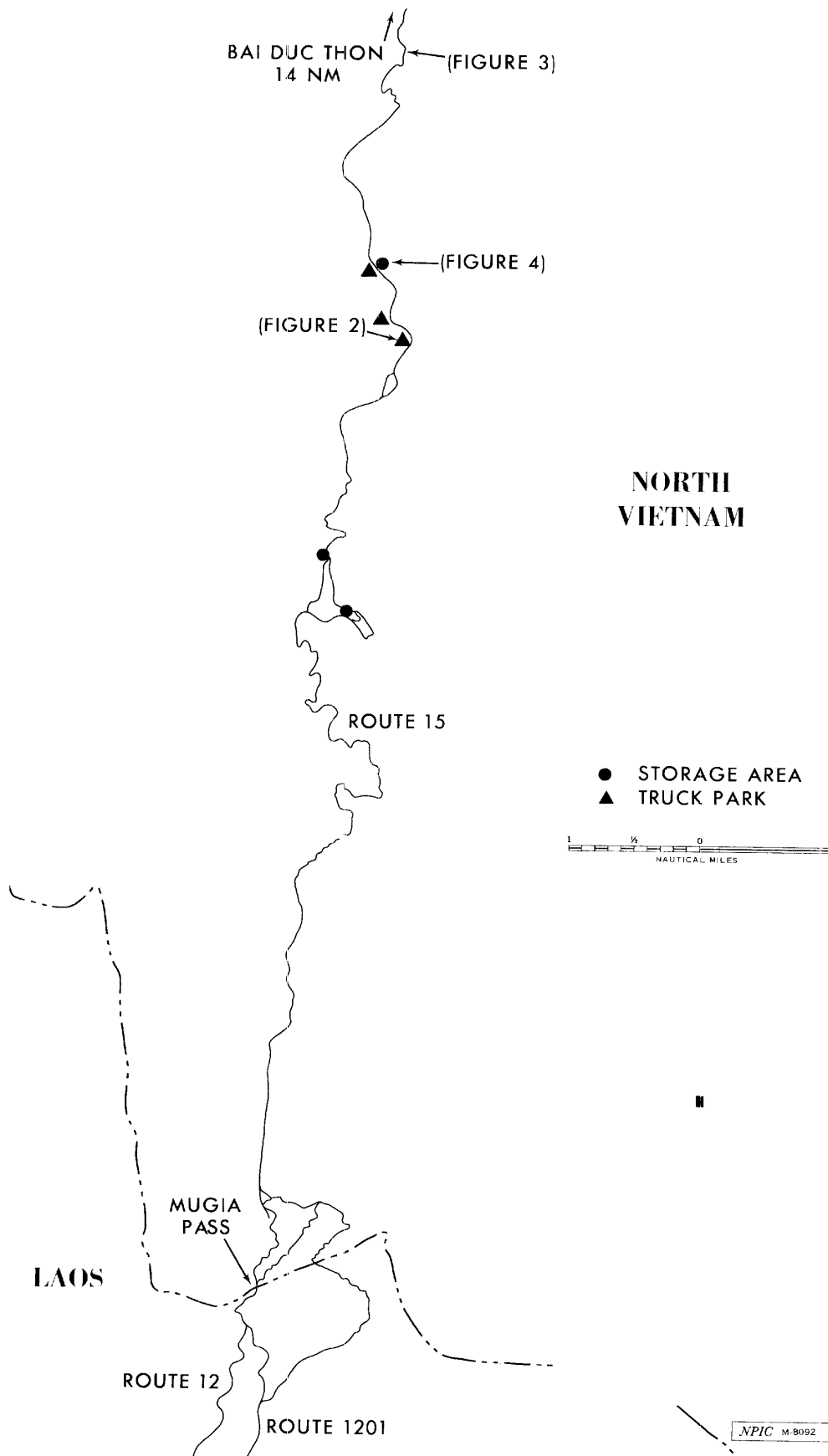


FIGURE 1. LOGISTICS ACTIVITY, MU GIA PASS AREA, ROUTE 15, NORTH VIETNAM

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INCREASED LOGISTICS ACTIVITY MU GIA PASS AREA - ROUTE 15, NORTH VIETNAM

25X1D

An increase in logistics activity on Route 15 has been observed during [REDACTED] (Figure 1). The logistics routes south of Mu Gia Pass in Laos were unserviceable due to heavy rains and interdiction from July through September. Route 15 in North Vietnam south of Bai Duc Thon, and particularly south of the Route 101 junction, was also inactive during this period.

No activity was observed at major truck parks and storage areas along the southern 10 nautical miles (nm) of the route, and there were comparatively few sightings of cargo vehicles in transit during this period. As the Laotian supply net has again become serviceable, particularly along Route 12 south of Mu Gia Pass, there has been a corresponding resumption in logistics activity on Route 15 immediately north of Mu Gia Pass.

Assessment of the recent increase in activity is primarily based upon the relatively large number of vehicle sightings and the reactivation of truck parks and storage areas near the border (Figure 1). A total of 145 cargo vehicles was observed on the southern 13 nm of Route 15 on [REDACTED]. Most of these vehicles were parked or moving southward on the route and were heavily

25X1D

25X1B

25X1B

[REDACTED] others were in truck parks (Figure 2). The cargo of most of the trucks could not be determined because of covering or [REDACTED] however, a few trucks were observed to be carrying POL drums and bagged goods. On at least three occasions in early [REDACTED] 100mm antiaircraft artillery pieces were observed being towed south on Route 15 in the vicinity of the Laotian border (Figure 3).

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A small amount of supplies reaching the southern segments of Route 15 is apparently not carried directly into Laos but held temporarily in storage areas (Figure 4). These areas consist primarily of groups of small semipermanent huts approximately [REDACTED] and constructed of bamboo and thatch. Approximately 100 such structures are along the southern 13 nm of Route 15; most are concentrated in several major storage areas while a few smaller groups or individual huts are dispersed along the route. Some of the huts are probably used as quarters for support and transit personnel; most were constructed prior to the fall of [REDACTED]

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Supplies are also being stockpiled in these storage areas on platforms of wood or matting and covered with thatch and canvas (Figure 4). Comparative photography of these areas in late [REDACTED] revealed covered supplies on these previously empty storage platforms. Comparative photographic coverage also revealed recent track activity and an increase in the number of cargo vehicles in these storage areas and neighboring truck parks.



FIGURE 2. TRUCK PARK, ROUTE 15, NORTH VIETNAM

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FIGURE 3. 100MM ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY IN TOW, ROUTE 15, NORTH VIETNAM

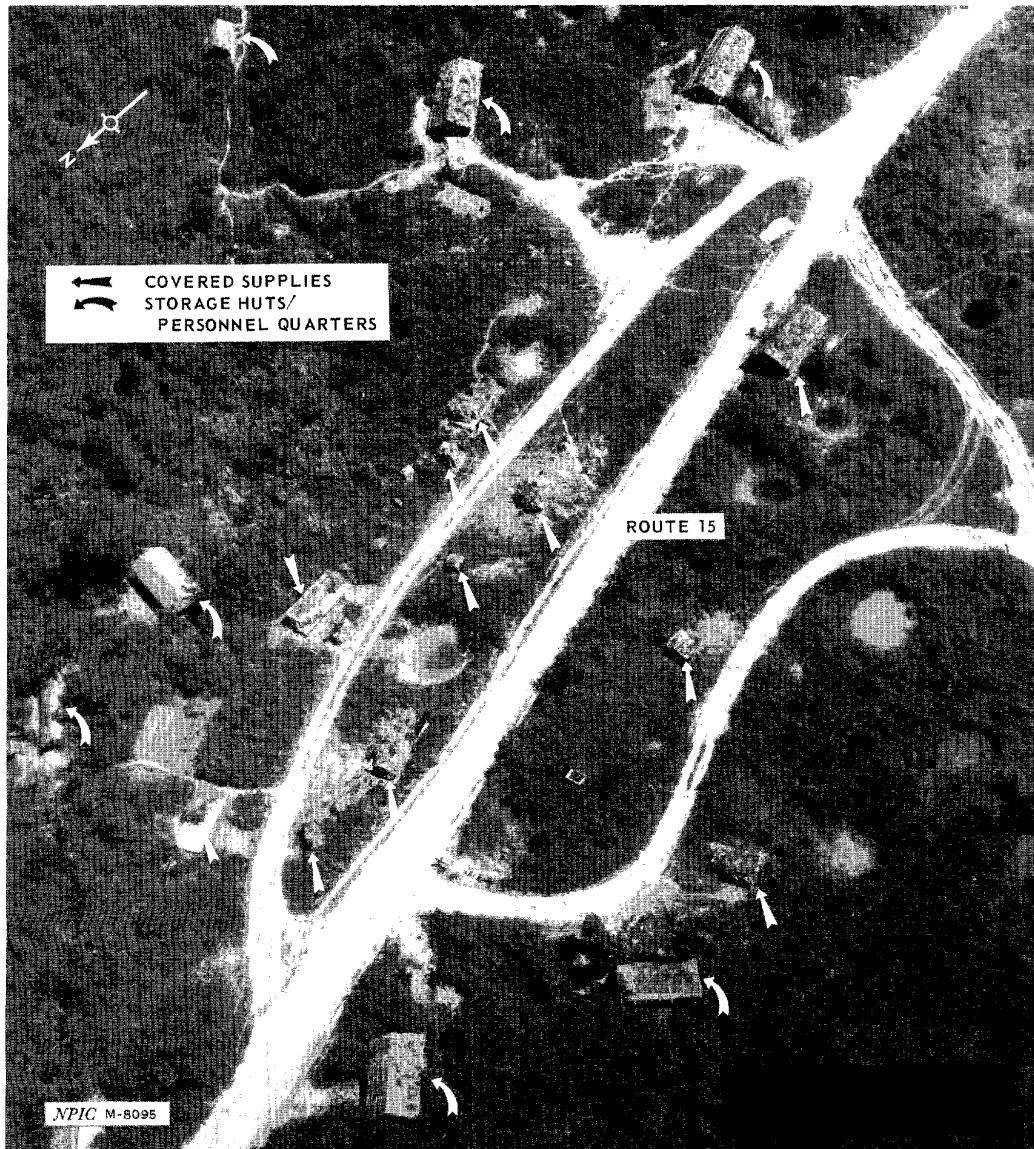


FIGURE 4. STORAGE AREA, ROUTE 15, NORTH VIETNAM

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